In re TURNER ET AL.
Application No. 09/520,684

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the following paragraph beginning on page 4, line 18, with the following paragraph which is marked-up to indicate the changes:

Merge sorting, illustrated in Fig. 1B, is a known technique for producing a single sorted list from multiple ordered lists whose values are known a priori. For example, two lists 920 and 922 of known elements sorted in ascending order can be combined into a single sorted list 924 by repeatedly taking the smaller value from the ~~top~~ front of lists 920 and 922, and appending the smaller value to the end of list 924. This example can be extended to a set of n known values, which can be sorted by first dividing the set into n lists containing a single value each, then combining pairs of lists to produce $n/2$ lists with two values each. Pairs of these lists are then merged, producing $n/4$ lists with four values each. Continuing in this fashion eventually yields a single sorted list containing the original values, but in sorted order, as shown in Figure 1B. Merge sorting can also be implemented using three-way merging (that is, merging three sorted lists into a single sorted list in one step), rather than by using two-way merging. More generally, d-way merging can be used for any integer $d > 1$.